

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NIC-01 GAC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 STR-08 RSR-01

/121 W

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R 091140 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3379

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PL

SUBJECT: THE PEASANT PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY: THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE PEASANT PARTY (ZSL) ENDED IN WARSAW APRIL 4. THE THREE- DAY CONGRESS WAS NOTABLE CHIEFLY FOR A FRANK AND DETAILED SPEECH ON AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS BY PARTY LEADER GUCWA, WHO EMPHASIZED THE THEME-- A CONGRESS OBSESSION-- THAT EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO EXPAND MEAT PRODUCTION AND TO SATISFY BURGEONING CONSUMER DEMANDS. ALTHOUGH THE CONGRESS EVIDENTLY BROUGHT NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN ZSL POLICY, IT DID RESULT IN A LARGE TURNOVER IN THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP: THE DELEGATES REELECTED FEWER THAN HALF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY'S GOVERNING BODIES. END  
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SUMMARY.

2. THE THREE- DAY CONGRESS OF THE POLISH PEASANT PARTY (ZSL) ENDED IN WARSAW APRIL 4 HAVING SERVED TO REEMPHASIZE THE PARTY'S ALLEGIANCE TO THE POLICY GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE PZPR, AIR THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THE POLISH PEASANTRY, AND ELECT A NEW-- AND EXTENSIVELY CHANGED-- LEADERSHIP. FROM ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, THE CONGRESS WENT SMOOTHLY AND SUCCEEDED IN PROJECTING THE DESIRED IMAGE OF CONFIDENCE, UNITY, AND CONCERN FOR THE COMMON WEAL.

3. IN THE KEYNOTE SPEECH ON THE CONGRESS' S FIRST DAY, PARTY LEADER GUCWA ( LATER REELECTED TO HIS POST) GAVE A DETAILED AND APPARENTLY FRANK REVIEW OF PROBLEMS FACING THE FARMER. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WERE HIS COMMENTS ON SATISFYING THE " CONSTANTLY INCREASING" DEMAND FOR MEAT, WHICH HE CALLED THE " MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM" IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. GUCWA POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH MEAT PRODUCTION WAS UP 23 PERCENT OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE INCREASE HAD COME ALMOST ENTIRELY IN PORK AND POULTRY; BEEF PRODUCTION HAD NOT RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY, AND MUTTON PRODUCTION HAD FALLEN. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT EVEN THOUGH GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF MEAT HAD RISEN 46 PERCENT SINCE 1970 ( TWICE AS FAST AS PRODUCTION, WITH THE DIFFERENCE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN MEAT PURCHASES AND REDUCED CONSUMPTION BY FARMERS) THIS HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY CONSUMER DEMAND.

4. GUCWA' S COMMENTS ON MEAT SUPPLIES COME AT A TIME WHEN, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THERE HAS BEEN A SHORTAGE OF MEAT, ESPECIALLY BEEF, ON THE WARSAW MARKET. THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THIS SHORTAGE IS UNKNOWN. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IT RESULTS FROM INCREASED EXPORTS COMBINED WITH ATTEMPTS TO BUILD UP DOMESTIC INVENTORIES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE EASTER BUYING RUSH. WHATEVER THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE, HOWEVER, THE FACT OF SHORTAGES IS NOT SURPRISING. MEAT SUPPLIES TO CONSUMERS, EVEN WITH VISIBLE IMPROVEMENTS LAST YEAR, HAVE BEEN MARGINALLY SATISFACTORY AT BEST. WITH PRICES FROZEN AT PRE- DECEMBER, 1970 LEVELS, AND THE INCREASED PURCHASING POWER AMONG VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION FOCUSING, AS EXPECTED,

PARTICULARLY ON MEAT, THE POTENTIAL FOR SHORTAGES IS CLEAR. THAT THE ZSL CONGRESS SHOULD BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS PROBLEM SHOWS THAT THE GIEREK REGIME IS BLIND NEITHER TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH SHORTAGES.

5. OTHERWISE, THE DISCUSSION AT THE CONGRESS TENDED TO REVOLVE AROUND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GIEREK REGIME' S GENERALLY POPULAR AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF HEALTH CARE FOR FARMERS, LIBERALIZED LAND TENURE REGULATIONS, DELIVERY PRICES FOR LIVESTOCK, AND ADMINISTRATIVE ( GMINA) REFORM.

6. SINCE THIS WAS THE ZSL' S FIRST CONGRESS IN THE GIEREK ERA, SUBSTANTIAL PERSONNEL CHANGES SEEMED LIKELY . IN THE EVENT, MORE THAN HALF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY' S RULING BODIES WERE NOT REELECTED. AMONG THE CASUALTIES WERE TWO OF THE PARTY' S THREE PRESIDUM VICE PRESIDENTS ( INCLUDING THE ZSL' S MAN ON THE COUNCIL OF STATE, DYZMA GALAJ) AND THREE OF FIVE MEMBERS OF ITS SECRETARIAT. HOWEVER, STANISLAW GUCWA, PARTY LEADER SINCE FEBRUARY, 1971, WAS REELECTED TO HIS POST. ( MEMBERSHIP LISTS OF THE NEW ZSL RULING BODIES WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT).

7. COMMENT: THE PZPR HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT INROADS WITH PEASANTS ( PEASANT MEMBERSHIP IS LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL) AND THEREFORE HAS BEEN FORCED TO RELY, TO AN APPRECIABLE EXTENT, ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND POLITICAL EFFORTS OF THE 428,000- MEMBER ZSL AMONG FARMERS. SINCE THE COUNTRYSIDE IS AN AREA IN WHICH THE GIEREK REGIME ( WITH THE AID OF THE ZSL) HAS INTRODUCED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT AND WELL- RECEIVED REFORMS , FARMERS ARE RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS. THE OUTWARDLY CALM AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE OF THE ZSL CONGRESS REFLECTED THIS RELATIVE SATISFACTION OF THE PEASANT LEADERSHIP STRATUM. DAVIES

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BERLIN  
BUCHAREST  
BUDAPEST  
EUR  
MOSCOW  
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